

Discover the New Testament – 2 Corinthians 1

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II Corinthians was probably written shortly after I Corinthians, likely in A.D. 55 or 56.

It was written from Macedonia, where Paul had gone seeking Titus.

OUTLINE:

- I Introduction – (1:1-11)
- II Paul's Personal Testimony – (1:12-2:13)
- III Paul's Teachings about the True Ministry of Christ – (2:14-6:10)
- IV Paul's Exhortation to the Corinthians – (6:11-7:16)
- V Paul's Instructions about Giving – (8:-9:15)
- VI Conclusion – (13:11-14)

I. INTRODUCTION:

II Corinthians 1:3-4 – **3** Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, **4** who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.

II. PAUL'S PERSONAL TESTIMONY:

- Resolving the former conflicts
- Paul is wanting to turn the page on their relationship

II Corinthians 2:1-11 – **1** So I made up my mind that I would not make another painful visit to you. **2** For if I grieve you, who is left to make me glad but you whom I have grieved? **3** I wrote as I did so that when I came I should not be distressed by those who ought to make me rejoice. I had confidence in all of you, that you would all share my joy. **4 For I wrote you out of great distress and anguish of heart and with many tears, not to grieve you but to let you know the depth of my love for you.** **5** If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you, to some extent-not to put it too severely. **6** The punishment or penalty inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient for him. **7** Now instead, you ought to **forgive and comfort him**, so that he will not be **overwhelmed by excessive sorrow.** **8** I urge you, therefore, to **reaffirm your love for him.** **9** The reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. **10** If you forgive anyone, I also forgive him. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, **11** in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

Unforgiveness and unresolved issues are schemes used by Satan to outwit us.

III. PAUL'S TEACHINGS ABOUT THE TRUE MINISTRY OF CHRIST:

II Corinthians 2:14-17 – **14** But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. **15** For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. **16** To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task? **17** Unlike so many, we do not peddle the word of God for profit. On the contrary, in Christ we speak before God with sincerity, like men sent from God.

Living for God and properly handling the Word of God causes our lives to influence both those who are lost and saved.

II Corinthians 3:4-18 – 4 Such confidence (the results of our ministry toward you) as this is ours through Christ before God. 5 Not that we are competent in ourselves to claim anything for ourselves, but our competence comes from God. 6 He has made us competent as ministers of a new covenant—not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life. 7 Now if the ministry that brought death, which was engraved in letters on stone, came with glory, so that the Israelites could not look steadily at the face of Moses because of its glory, fading though it was, 8 will not the ministry of the Spirit be even more glorious? 9 If the ministry that condemns men is glorious, how much more glorious is the ministry that brings righteousness! 10 For what was glorious has no glory now in comparison with the surpassing glory. 11 And if what was fading away came with glory, how much greater is the glory of that which lasts! 12 Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold. 13 We are not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face to keep the Israelites from gazing at it while the radiance was fading away. 14 But their minds were made dull, for to this day the same veil remains when the old covenant is read. It has not been removed, because only in Christ is it taken away. 15 Even to this day when Moses is read, a veil covers their hearts. 16 But whenever anyone turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. 17 Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. 18 And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.

A hidden Gospel:

II Corinthians 4:3-4 – 3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. 4 The god of this age has blinded the minds of unbelievers, so that they cannot see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

Overcoming through glory of God:

II Corinthians 4:6-11 – 6 For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. 7 But we have this treasure (the light of the knowledge of the glory of God) in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. 8 We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed — 10 always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our body. 11 For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh.

Inward-man focus:

II Corinthians 4:16-18 – 16 Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day. 17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, 18 while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Our temporary home:

II Corinthians 5:1-10 - 1 For we know that if our earthly house (this tent) is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, 3 if indeed, having been

clothed, we shall not be found naked. **4** For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life. **5** Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. **6** So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. **7** For we walk by faith, not by sight. **8** We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. **9** Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him. **10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

The ministry of reconciliation:

II Corinthians 5:17-21 - **17** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new. **18** Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, **19** that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. **20** Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. **21** For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

II Corinthians 6:1 - We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain.